

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An automated authentication handling system for use by clients on a network comprising:  
a plurality of application servers connected to said network, each requiring authentication  
for access; and

an authentication server adapted to authenticate at least one of said clients and establish a  
trusted communication link for access by an authenticated user to at least one of said application  
servers.

2. The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said authentication  
server includes:

an identification engine configured to maintain collections of session assignments for  
accessing said application servers, each of said session assignment collections being associated  
with a client identifier.

3. The automated authentication handling system of claim 2 wherein said identification  
engine is adapted to receive client identifiers from said clients to establish authenticated users  
and responsive thereto to provide a user interface to access said application servers according to  
said associated session assignments.

4. The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said authentication  
server includes:

a communication initiator engine configured to establish a trusted communication link  
between said authenticated users and said application servers.

5. The automated authentication handling system of claim 3 wherein said authentication  
server includes:

3 a communication initiator engine configured to establish a trusted communication link  
4 defined to one of said session assignments between said authenticated users and said application  
5 servers.

1 6. The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said session  
2 assignments include data fields selected from the group consisting of session timeout and  
3 application access level.

1 7. The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said client identifiers  
2 include a user id and password.

1 8. The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said authentication  
2 server includes a processor under the control of software to:

3 receive an authentication signal from said client;

4 provide an application access interface to said client in response to said  
5 authentication signal; and

6 establish a trusted communication link between said client and a application  
7 server selected from said application access interface.

1 9. A method for automatically authenticating a client for a plurality of application servers  
2 comprising the steps of:

3 providing an authentication server;

4 identifying clients for access to said application servers by said authentication server; and

5 establishing a trusted communication link between at least one of said clients and at least  
6 one of said application servers.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein said identifying step includes:

2 providing a session parameters for each of said identified clients for at least one of said  
3 application servers.

